

CLAIMS

1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2838 - SEQ ID NO: 5674.
2. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
3. A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 2.
4. A method for producing a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 3 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
5. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, said nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 .
6. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 operably linked to a transcription regulatory element.
7. A cell comprising a recombinant expression vector of claim 6.
8. A method for producing a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide comprising culturing a cell of claim 7 under conditions that permit expression of the polypeptide.
9. A probe comprising a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 8 nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837.

10. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least 8 nucleotides in length, wherein the sequence is hybridizable to a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837.

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11. A vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of a *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a nucleic acid of claim 5.

12. A vaccine composition of claim 11, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A vaccine composition of claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an adjuvant.

14. A method of treating a subject for *S. epidermidis* infection comprising administering to a subject a vaccine composition of claim 11, such that treatment of *S. epidermidis* infection occurs.

15. A method of claim 14, wherein the treatment is a prophylactic treatment.

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16. A method of claim 14, wherein the treatment is a therapeutic treatment.

17. A recombinant or substantially pure preparation of a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide or a fragment thereof, wherein said polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2838 - SEQ ID NO: 5674.

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18. A vaccine composition for prevention or treatment of a *S. epidermidis* infection comprising an effective amount of a *S. epidermidis* polypeptide of claim 17.

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19. A vaccine composition of claim 18, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A vaccine composition of claim 19, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is an adjuvant.

21. A method of treating a subject for *S. epidermidis* infection comprising administering to a subject a vaccine composition of claim 18, such that treatment of *S. epidermidis* infection occurs.

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22. A method of claim 21, wherein the treatment is a prophylactic treatment.

23. A method of claim 21, wherein the treatment is a therapeutic treatment.

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24. A method for detecting the presence of a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in a sample comprising:

(a) contacting a sample with a nucleic acid of claim 5 under conditions in which a hybrid can form between the probe and a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in the sample; and

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(b) detecting the hybrid formed in step (a), wherein detection of a hybrid indicates the presence of a *Staphylococcus* nucleic acid in the sample.

25. A computer readable medium having recorded thereon the nucleotide sequences depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof.

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26. A computer based system for identifying fragments of the *Staphylococcus* genome of commercial importance comprising the following elements;

a) a data storage means comprising the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 and fragments thereof,

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- b) a search means for comparing a target sequence to the nucleotide sequences of the data storage means of step (a) to identify homologous sequences, and;
- c) a retrieval means for obtaining said homologous sequences(s) of step (b).

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27. A method of identifying commercially important nucleic acid fragments of the *Staphylococcus* genome comprising the step of comparing a database comprising the nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof with a target sequence to obtain a nucleic acid molecule comprised of a complementary  
10 nucleotide sequence to said target sequence, wherein said target sequence is not randomly selected.

28. A method for identifying an expression modulating fragment of the *Staphylococcus* genome comprising the step of comparing a database comprising the  
15 nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 - SEQ ID NO: 2837 or fragments thereof with a target sequence to obtain a nucleic acid molecule comprised of a complementary nucleotide sequence to said target sequence, wherein said target sequence comprises sequences known regulate gene expression.

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